

2015 Gold Award Projects – A Sampling

This year 274 girls earned their Girl Scout Gold Award in greater Los Angeles.

Here are just some of their projects:

Ayanna Neal, Culver City

For her Gold Award project, “Saving the LAX Dunes,” Ayanna restored the LAX Coastal Dunes habitat by removing non-native plants. She coordinated three days where 65 volunteers collected 130+ bags of non-native plants. In addition, she obtained event sponsors, generated publicity via social media, and established a Community Advisory Board to continue restoration efforts.

Vivianna Gerges, Whittier

Vivianna is an avid hiker and loves nature, which is what inspired her Gold Award project, “Saving the Brodiaea Flower,” a rare endangered plant. She held environmental classes and conducted an invasive species removal. She also designed a brochure, signage, DVD, and website. She hopes to inspire others to take action to protect our environment.

Emily Dickinson, La Cañada

For her Gold Award project, Emily held conferences in two cities in China with 40 students from more than 12 high schools to raise awareness and discuss issues of environmental health, such as air and water pollution and improper waste disposal. She encourages environmental consciousness and recognition of the lasting effects of pollution.

Shuchi Sehgal, La Cañada

Shuchi’s passion for medicine and community service urged her to make a difference that she could spread in the community and abroad. For her Gold Award project, Shuchi established the MDJunior club, held blood drives, and participated in medical outreach trips to Honduras. She hopes to continue to kindle love for selfless service and medicine in others.

Naomi Reeley, Hacienda Heights

Naomi’s Gold Award project, “The Life Project,” is deeply rooted in her love for and involvement with the organization Donate Life. She used her project to educate her community about organ and tissue donation with the goal of diffusing the stigmas attached to donation. Through various events and a club Naomi set up, her work will continue to educate high school students.

Krista Fredrickson, Valencia

For her Gold Award project, “Staging Homes for Police Training,” Krista worked with the sheriff’s department’s Pitchess Honor Rancho, staging five houses with furniture that was donated by garage sales and churches so that the homes looked like what officers could expect in real life, reflecting current family values in a diverse neighborhood. These homes are now used for scenarios for SWAT units, K-9 entries, and arson explosive scenario events.

Lauren Wilmore, Pasadena

Lauren created “School House Pop,” a fun math and English curriculum for third- through fifth-grade students. She wrote academic lyrics to 10 well-known pop songs; recorded them into an album; and designed a student booklet, teaching guide, and YouTube channel. She taught the songs to local elementary school students and Girl Scouts.

Leonora Meroth, Rancho Palos Verdes

With a scarcity of minorities and women in engineering, Leonora hoped to encourage elementary students of these backgrounds to pursue careers in science- or engineering-related fields through her Gold Award project, “STEMFriends.” She created a two-week summer workshop covering real-life STEM topics with hands-on experiments. Girl Scout staff were so impressed by her work, they plan to use Leonora’s curriculum in Los Angeles-area Girl Scout camp programs.

Audrey Lai, Cerritos

For her Gold Award project, “Cyber Savvy Seniors,” Audrey held technology guidance workshops at her local senior center. The goal was to make senior citizens more comfortable with electronic devices. She built a website, answered their questions, and presented topics for them to learn.

Brooke Gleason, Manhattan Beach

Brooke’s Gold Award project, “I Will Remember for You,” was inspired by her interest in joining the fight to cure Alzheimer’s Disease. She created memory books for residents at Silverado Senior Living in Redondo Beach, California. She also designed a template book and YouTube video for families hoping to create their own memory books for dementia patients.

Rachel Oda, Rolling Hills Estates

For her Gold Award project, “We All Dance,” Rachel created a curriculum on special needs dance education that includes self-created and edited video. It improves motor and cognition skills through muscle memory and was implemented in a nine-week workshop with special needs youth.

Jihana Samaya Mendu, Rolling Hills

Jihana found inspiration for her Gold Award project, “Happy Smile, Happy Heart” when she accompanied a group of doctors on a mission to Arequipa, Peru. Jihana taught good oral hygiene and preventative care, and provided dental care packages for the kids.

Sahar Allibhoy, Northridge

Sahar’s Gold Award project, “Ismaili Heritage Project,” was inspired by her father’s stories about his childhood in Pakistan. Her project is about giving elders in the Ismaili community a voice and showing they are valued members of the society. She is hopeful this will benefit the entire community by giving families a chance to memorialize and pass on their history.